

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, a system for creating a multimedia summary of said
3 video program, said system comprising:

4 a multimedia summary generator capable of obtaining a
5 transcript of the text of said video program and capable of
6 obtaining audio-video segments of said video program,

7 wherein said multimedia summary generator is capable of
8 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said audio-
9 video segments to create a multimedia summary of said video
10 program.

1 2. The system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said multimedia
2 summary generator is capable of creating said multimedia summary by
3 selecting an audio-video segment that relates to a topic of said
4 video program, and by adding said topic and said audio-video
5 segment to said multimedia summary.

1 3. The system as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said multimedia
2 summary generator comprises:

3 a controller capable of executing computer software
4 instructions contained within a memory coupled to said controller
5 to create said multimedia summary of said video program by
6 identifying at least one topic cue in said transcript of said video
7 program, and by selecting at least one audio-visual template
8 associated with said at least one topic cue, and by adding said
9 topic cue and said audio-visual template to said multimedia
10 summary.

1 4. The system as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said controller
2 is capable of executing computer software instructions contained
3 within a memory coupled to said controller to create said
4 multimedia summary of said video program by identifying at least
5 one subtopic cue for said at least one topic of said video
6 program, and by selecting at least one audio-visual template
7 associated with said at least one subtopic cue, and by adding said
8 subtopic cue and said audio-visual template to said multimedia
9 summary.

1 5. The system as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said controller
2 is capable of executing:

3 a domain identification application capable of identifying a
4 type of said video program;

5 a topic cue identification application capable of identifying
6 at least one topic cue in said transcript of said video program;

7 a subtopic cue identification application capable of
8 identifying at least one subtopic cue in said at least one topic
9 of said video program; and

10 an audio-visual template identification application capable of
11 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with said
12 at least one topic cue, and capable of identifying at least one
13 audio-visual template associated with said at least one subtopic
14 cue.

1 6. The system as claimed in Claim 4 wherein said controller
2 is capable of executing computer software instructions contained
3 within a memory coupled to said controller to create an entry point
4 for each topic that will allow a viewer to access each topic in
5 said multimedia summary, and to create an entry point for each
6 subtopic that will allow a viewer to access each subtopic in said
7 multimedia summary.

1 7. A video display system capable of creating a multimedia
2 summary of a video program, said video display system comprising:
3 a multimedia summary generator capable of obtaining a
4 transcript of the text of said video program and capable of
5 obtaining audio-video segments of said video program,
6 wherein said multimedia summary generator is capable of
7 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said audio-
8 video segments to create a multimedia summary of said video
9 program.

1 8. The video display system as claimed in Claim 7 wherein
2 said multimedia summary generator is capable of creating said
3 multimedia summary by selecting an audio-video segment that relates
4 to a topic of said video program, and by adding said topic and said
5 audio-video segment to said multimedia summary.

1 9. The video display system as claimed in Claim 8 wherein
2 said multimedia summary generator comprises:

3 a controller capable of executing computer software
4 instructions contained within a memory coupled to said controller
5 to create said multimedia summary of said video program by
6 identifying at least one topic cue in said transcript of said video
7 program, and by selecting at least one audio- visual template
8 associated with said at least one topic cue, and by adding said
9 topic cue and said audio-visual template to said multimedia
10 summary.

1 10. The video display system as claimed in Claim 9 wherein
2 said controller is capable of executing computer software
3 instructions contained within a memory coupled to said controller
4 to create said multimedia summary of said video program by
5 identifying at least one subtopic cue for said at least one topic
6 of said video program, and by selecting at least one audio-visual
7 template associated with said at least one subtopic cue, and by
8 adding said subtopic cue and said audio-visual template to said
9 multimedia summary.

11. The video display system as claimed in Claim 9 wherein
said controller is capable of executing:

a domain identification application capable of identifying a
type of said video program;

a topic cue identification application capable of identifying
at least one topic cue in said transcript of said video program;

a subtopic cue identification application capable of
identifying at least one subtopic cue in said at least one topic
of said video program; and

an audio-visual template identification application capable of
identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with said
at least one topic cue, and capable of identifying at least one
audio-visual template associated with said at least one subtopic
cue.

1 12. The video display system as claimed in Claim 10 wherein
2 said controller is capable of executing computer software
3 instructions contained within a memory coupled to said controller
4 to create an entry point for each topic that will allow a viewer to
5 access each topic in said multimedia summary, and to create an
6 entry point for each subtopic that will allow a viewer to access
7 each subtopic in said multimedia summary.

1 13. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, a method for creating a multimedia summary of said
3 video program, said method comprising the steps of:

4 obtaining a transcript of the text of said video program in a
5 multimedia summary generator;

6 obtaining audio-video segments of said video program in said
7 multimedia summary generator; and

8 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said
9 audio-video segments in said multimedia summary generator to create
10 said multimedia summary of said video program.

1 14. The method as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the step of
2 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said audio-
3 video segments in said multimedia summary generator to create said
4 multimedia summary of said video program comprises:

5 selecting an audio-video segment that relates to a topic of
6 said video program; and

7 adding said topic and said audio-video segment to said
8 multimedia summary.

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1 15. The method as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
4 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
5 summary generator;

6 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
7 generator to identify at least one topic cue in said transcript of
8 said video program;

9 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
10 generator to select at least one audio-visual template associated
11 with said at least one topic cue; and

12 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
13 generator to add said topic cue and said audio-visual template to
14 said multimedia summary.

16. The method as claimed in Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia summary generator;

executing said instructions in said multimedia summary generator to identify at least one subtopic cue for said at least one topic of said video program;

executing said instructions in said multimedia summary generator to select at least one audio-visual template associated with said at least one subtopic cue; and

executing said instructions in said multimedia summary generator to add said subtopic cue and said audio-visual template to said multimedia summary.

1 17. The method as claimed in Claim 15 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 identifying a type of said video program with a domain
4 identification application;

5 identifying at least one topic cue in said transcript of said
6 video program with a topic cue identification application;

7 identifying at least one subtopic cue in said at least one
8 topic of said video program with a subtopic cue identification
9 application;

10 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with
11 said at least one topic cue with an audio-visual template
12 identification application; and

13 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with
14 said at least one subtopic cue with said audio-visual template
15 identification application.

18. The method as claimed in Claim 16 further comprising the steps of:

receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia summary generator;

executing said instructions in said multimedia summary generator to create an entry point for each topic that will allow a viewer to access each topic in said multimedia summary; and

executing said instructions in said multimedia summary generator to create an entry point for each subtopic that will allow a viewer to access each subtopic in said multimedia summary.

1 19. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, computer-executable instructions stored on a
3 computer-readable storage medium for creating a multimedia summary
4 of said video program, the computer-executable instructions
5 comprising the steps of:

6 obtaining a transcript of the text of said video program in a
7 multimedia summary generator;

8 obtaining audio-video segments of said video program in said
9 multimedia summary generator; and

10 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said
11 audio-video segments in said multimedia summary generator to create
12 said multimedia summary of said video program.

1 20. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the
3 step of combining portions of said transcript and portions of said
4 audio-video segments in said multimedia summary generator to create
5 said multimedia summary of said video program comprises:

6 selecting an audio-video segment that relates to a topic of
7 said video program; and

8 adding said topic and said audio-video segment to said
9 multimedia summary.

1 21. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 20 further
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
5 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
6 summary generator;

7 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
8 generator to identify at least one topic cue in said transcript of
9 said video program;

10 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
11 generator to select at least one audio-visual template associated
12 with said at least one topic cue; and

13 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
14 generator to add said topic cue and said audio-visual template to
15 said multimedia summary.

1 22. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 21 further
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
5 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
6 summary generator;

7 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
8 generator to identify at least one subtopic cue for said at least
9 one topic of said video program;

10 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
11 generator to select at least one audio-visual template associated
12 with said at least one subtopic cue; and

13 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
14 generator to add said subtopic cue and said audio-visual template
15 to said multimedia summary.

1 23. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 21 further
3 comprising the steps of:

4 identifying a type of said video program with a domain
5 identification application;

6 identifying at least one topic cue in said transcript of said
7 video program with a topic cue identification application;

8 identifying at least one subtopic cue in said at least one
9 topic of said video program with a subtopic cue identification
10 application;

11 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with
12 said at least one topic cue with an audio-visual template
13 identification application; and

14 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with
15 said at least one subtopic cue with said audio-visual template
16 identification application.

1 24. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 22 further
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
5 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
6 summary generator;

7 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
8 generator to create an entry point for each topic that will allow a
9 viewer to access each topic in said multimedia summary; and

10 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
11 generator to create an entry point for each subtopic that will
12 allow a viewer to access each subtopic in said multimedia summary.

1 25. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, a multimedia summary of a video program comprising
3 at least one audio-visual segment of said video program.

1 26. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 25 further comprising at least one portion of a transcript of
3 said video program.

1 27. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 25 comprising at least one audio-visual segment of said video
3 program that relates to at least one topic of said video program.

1 28. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 27 comprising at least one audio-visual segment of said video
3 program that relates to at least one subtopic in said at least one
4 topic of said video program.

1 29. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 25 wherein said multimedia summary is capable of displaying
3 one of:

4 text from said video program, audio from said video program, a
5 single video frame from said video program, a video segment
6 comprising a series of video frames from said video program, and
7 an audio-visual segment comprising audio from said video program
8 and a series of video frames from said video program.

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1 30. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 27 comprising a plurality of audio-visual segments of said
3 video program, wherein each of said plurality of audio-visual
4 segments relates to a topic of said video program.

1 31. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 30 further comprising a topic entry point associated with
3 each of said plurality of audio-visual segments that relates to a
4 topic, in which each topic entry point allows a viewer to access
5 the audio-visual segment associated with said topic.

1 32. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 30 comprising a plurality of audio-visual segments of said
3 video program, wherein each of said plurality of audio-visual
4 segments relates to a subtopic of a topic of said video program.

1 33. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 32 further comprising a subtopic entry point associated with
3 each of said plurality of audio-visual segments that relates to a
4 subtopic, in which each subtopic entry point allows a viewer to
5 access the audio-visual segment associated with said subtopic.

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1 34. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, a multimedia summary of a video program comprising
3 a plurality of audio-visual segments of said video program
4 that relate to at least one topic of said video program; and
5 at least one topic entry point associated with said plurality
6 of audio-visual segments that relate to said at least one topic of
7 said video program, in which said at least one topic entry point
8 allows a viewer to access the plurality of audio-visual segments
9 associated with said topic.

1 35. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 34 further comprising
3 a plurality of audio-visual segments of said video program
4 that relate to at least one subtopic of said at least one topic of
5 said video program; and
6 at least one subtopic entry point associated with said
7 plurality of audio-visual segments that relate to said at least one
8 subtopic of said at least one topic of said video program, in which
9 said at least one subtopic entry point allows a viewer to access
10 the plurality of audio-visual segments associated with said
11 subtopic.

36. The method as claimed in Claim 13, said method further comprising the steps of:

obtaining an image of a face of a person in said video program with audio-visual template identification application after said person first appears in said video program;

subsequently confirming the identity of said person by checking at least one identifying characteristic of said person; and

adding said image of said person to said multimedia summary after the identity of said person has been confirmed.

37. The method as claimed in Claim 36 wherein said at least one identifying characteristic of said person comprises one of:

an identification of the face of said person, an identification of the voice of said person, and a name plate of said person.

38. The method as claimed in Claim 36 wherein at least one identifying characteristic of said person comprises an identification of the face of said person and an identification of the voice of said person.